INHUMANS™ VS X-MEN

SOULE
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MARVEL

#19

THE UNCANNY

INHUMANS™

Thousands of years ago aliens experimented on cavemen, supercharging their evolution, and then mysteriously left their experiments behind. These men and women built the city of Attilan and discovered a chemical called Terrigen that unlocked secret super-powers in their modified DNA, making them...

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

LINEAGE

MAXIMUS

TRITON

THE UNSPOKEN

Some time ago, desperate to protect his people from an oncoming threat, Black Bolt, the Inhuman king, with the help of his brother, the Mad Prince Maximus, detonated a bomb that dispersed massive clouds of Terrigen into Earth's atmosphere.

The Terrigen's release ushered in a new age for the Inhumans——people across the planet have manifested powers and learned of their Inhuman heritage. But the catalyst has also had deadly effects on mutantkind. Both the X-Men and the Inhumans have spent months seeking a way to protect mutants from Terrigen sickness, but their efforts have been futile.

Recently, Maximus resurfaced and, having learned of the conflict between the mutants and Inhumans, hatched a plan to join the fray. With the help of two enemies of the Inhuman Royal Family, the Mad Prince has sprung his cousin TRITON from prison and is leading his motley crew on a quest to recreate TERRIGEN...

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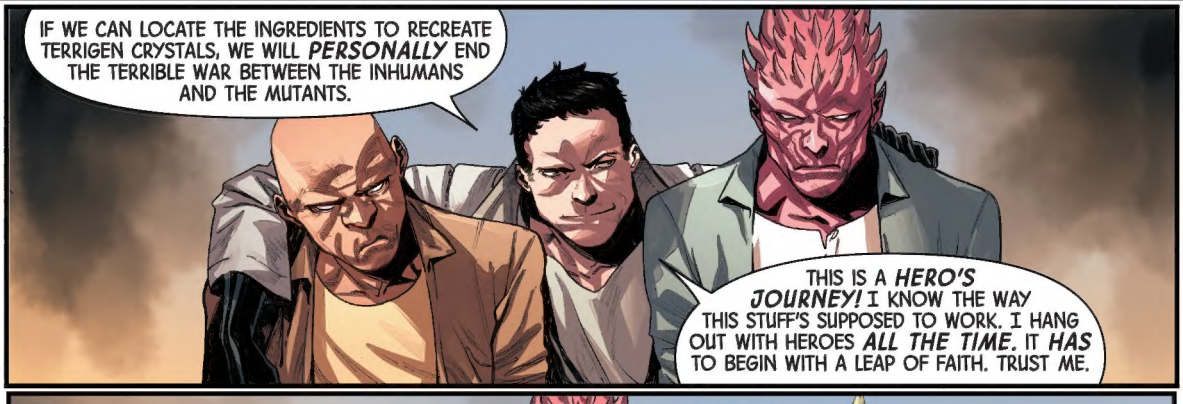
VIETNAM.
ABOVE THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.
ALL RIGHT, ALL TOGETHER NOW.
ON THREE...
...WE JUMP.
UH...
NO.

COME ON, NOW, BOYS. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
PRETTY SURE THE UNSPOKEN AND I SEE IT THE SAME WAY, MAXIMUS.
I'M NOT ALL THAT BIG ON THE OCEAN IN THE FIRST PLACE-- ALL KINDS OF CREEPY STUFF DOWN THERE.

LINEAGE IS RIGHT. ALSO--THERE'S A PATH LEADING DOWN. RIGHT OVER THERE. THERE'S NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO JUMP.
AH, BUT THERE'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, SIR.

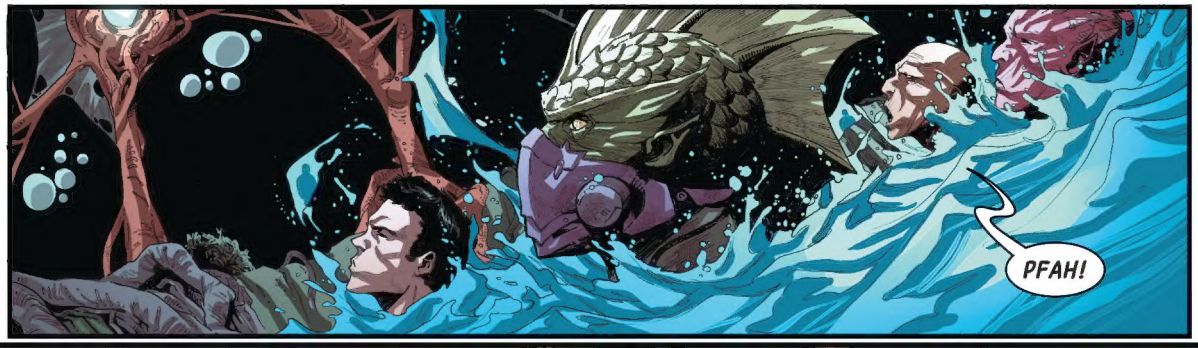

IF WE CAN LOCATE THE INGREDIENTS TO RECREATE TERRIGEN CRYSTALS, WE WILL PERSONALLY END THE TERRIBLE WAR BETWEEN THE INHUMANS AND THE MUTANTS.
THIS IS A HERO'S JOURNEY! I KNOW THE WAY THIS STUFF'S SUPPOSED TO WORK. I HANG OUT WITH HEROES ALL THE TIME. IT HAS TO BEGIN WITH A LEAP OF FAITH. TRUST ME.

I WOULDN'T.
YEAH. NO OFFENSE, MAXIMUS, BUT WE REALLY DON'T--

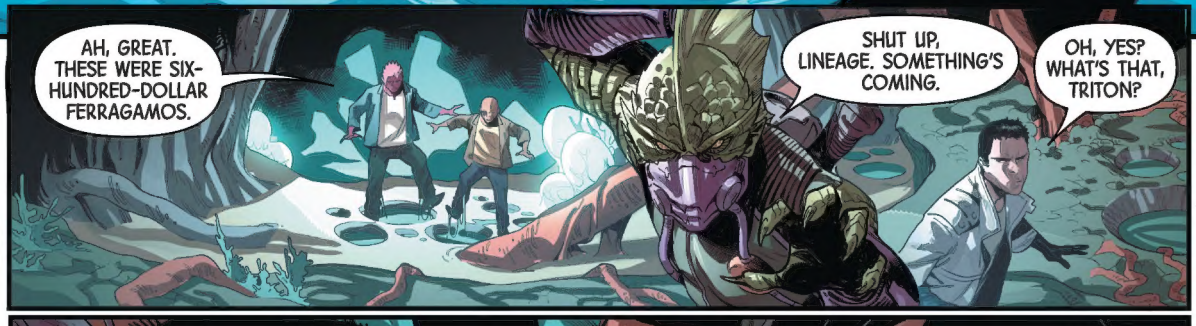
EH.
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET THERE.

SPLSH
I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T UNDERMINE ME LIKE THAT, TRITON. THIS WILL BE HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT YOU SOWING DISUNITY IN THE TEAM.
WE'RE NOT A TEAM. I'M ONLY WITH YOU BECAUSE DOING THIS COULD HELP OUR PEOPLE.
OH, SO SELFLESS. I'M SURE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TRYING TO BUY YOUR WAY BACK INTO THE GOOD GRACES OF MEDUSA AND BLACK BOLT?
MAYBE THEY'LL TAKE YOU BACK-- MAYBE. MAYBE THEY'LL EVEN FORGIVE YOU. BUT YOU'LL NEVER NOT BE A TRAITOR. FORGIVENESS DOESN'T ERASE THE PAST.
SEE YOU DOWN THERE!

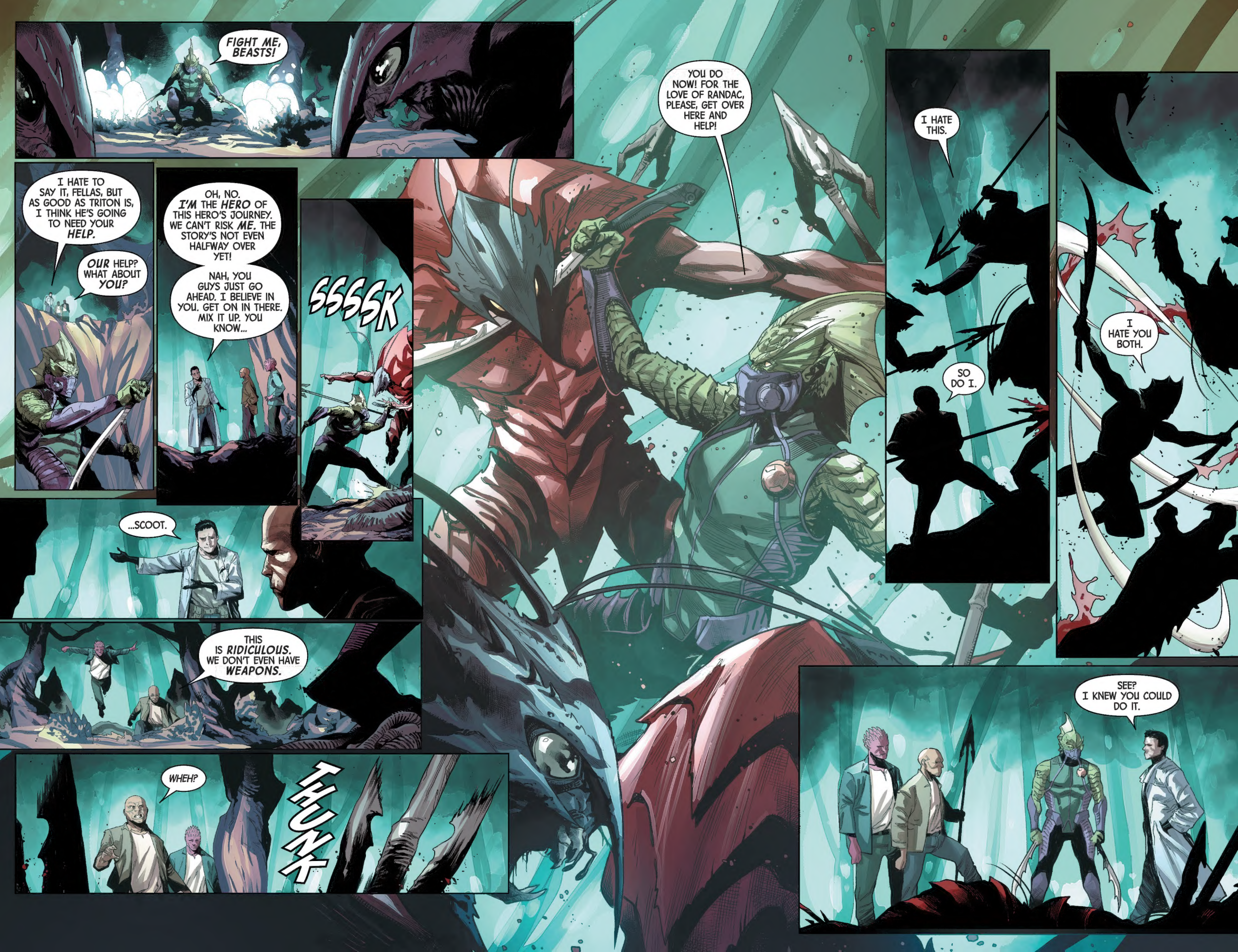
WHAT'S DOWN HERE, MAXIMUS?
THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN THE RECIPE FOR TERRIGEN CRYSTALS. IF WE DON'T GET THIS STUFF, WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP NOW.
I VOTE GIVE UP NOW.
DON'T BE AFRAID, LINEAGE. WE'LL BE OUT OF THE OPEN OCEAN SOON ENOUGH.
YEAH? HOW'S THAT? SOME KIND OF BASE DOWN HERE OR SOMETHING?
SORT OF.
A CAVE? AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN? THAT'S NOT MUCH BETTER, MAXIMUS.
WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A CAVE, EITHER.
IT'S REALLY MORE OF A MOUTH.
OH, GOD.


PFAH!

IT SMELLS TERRIBLE.
OH, PLEASE. LIKE YOUR DIGESTIVE TRACT SMELLS LIKE ROSES.


AH, GREAT. THESE WERE SIX-HUNDRED-DOLLAR FERRAGAMOS.
SHUT UP, LINEAGE. SOMETHING'S COMING.
OH, YES? WHAT'S THAT, TRITON?

TROUBLE.


FIGHT ME, BEASTS!
I HATE TO SAY IT, FELLAS, BUT AS GOOD AS TRITON IS, I THINK HE'S GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP.
OUR HELP? WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH, NO. I'M THE HERO OF THIS HERO'S JOURNEY. WE CAN'T RISK ME. THE STORY'S NOT EVEN HALFWAY OVER YET!
NAH, YOU GUYS JUST GO AHEAD. I BELIEVE IN YOU. GET ON IN THERE. MIX IT UP. YOU KNOW...
SSSSK
...SCOOT.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE WEAPONS.
WHEH?
THUNK
YOU DO NOW! FOR THE LOVE OF RANDAC, PLEASE, GET OVER HERE AND HELP!
I HATE THIS.
SO DO I.
I HATE YOU BOTH.
SEE? I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT.

ENOUGH!
I AM A KING, MAXIMUS. I RULED ATTILAN FOR YEARS BEFORE YOUR BROTHER BLACK BOLT STOLE MY THRONE. EVERY INHUMAN ON THIS PLANET WAS MINE TO COMMAND.
I WILL NOT BE TREATED LIKE A...A PRE-TERRIGENESIS CHILD! YOU WILL SHOW ME THE RESPECT I DESERVE AS A KING, OR... OR...
OR WHAT? EXACTLY.
YOU AND LINEAGE ARE COMPLETELY WELCOME TO GO YOUR OWN WAY. BUT TRITON'S COMING WITH ME, AND UNLESS YOU'RE HIDING A DIVE SUIT SOMEWHERE, EITHER YOU COME ALONG...
...OR YOU STAY DOWN HERE FOREVER. THE CHOICE IS YOURS...
...YOUR MAJESTY.
LET'S GO, TRITON. MUCH TO SEE, MUCH TO DO.

HOW DID THIS *HAPPEN* TO ME? I WAS A *KING.*
SO YOU SAID. BUT LISTEN. I THINK I GOT A WAY OUT OF THIS...
...WHEN YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON TERRIGEN, YOU BECOME THAT MEGA-POWERED GUY, ALL EYE-BEAMS AND SUPER-STRENGTH, RIGHT?

OF COURSE. I CAN CONTROL THE WAY TERRIGEN EXPRESSES IN MY BODY. I CAN HAVE WHATEVER POWERS I WISH, WHILE THE EFFECTS LAST.
THAT'S WHY I'M ALONG ON THIS DAMN RIDE TO HELL IN THE FIRST PLACE. WITHOUT MAXIMUS, I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO TASTE PURE TERRIGEN AGAIN.
SURE--BUT ONCE MAXIMUS MAKES MORE, WHAT'S TO STOP YOU FROM TAKING SOME AND TEARING HIM IN HALF?

DON'T YOU THINK I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT? THE PROBLEM IS THAT MAXIMUS WILL CERTAINLY HAVE THOUGHT OF IT, TOO.
HE'LL BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS WITH THE TERRIGEN CRYSTALS, ASSUMING HE LETS ME NEAR THEM AT ALL.
AH, BUT HE HASN'T THOUGHT ABOUT ME AND MY *POWER.*

YOUR POWER? YOU CAN ACCESS YOUR ANCESTORS' MEMORIES. HOW DOES THAT HELP US?
THAT AIN'T MY ONLY POWER. I HAD ANOTHER ONE, *LONG* TIME BEFORE I BECAME AN INHUMAN.

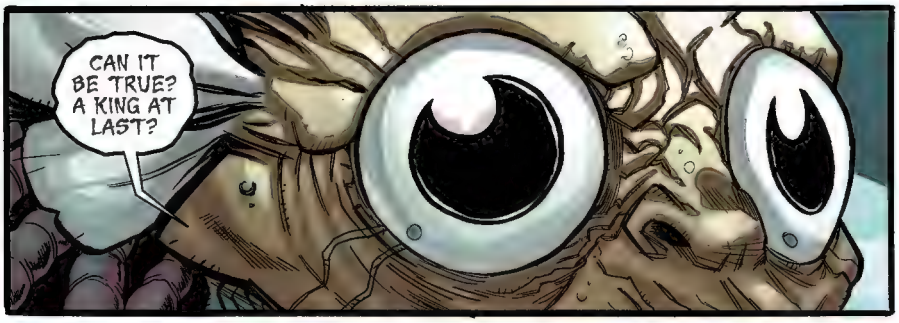
I'M A DIRTY, DOUBLE-CROSSING SON OF A GUN.

THERE'S GONNA BE A MOMENT--I DON'T KNOW WHEN, DON'T KNOW HOW--BUT IT'S GONNA COME.
AND WHEN IT DOES, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET WHAT YOU NEED, IF YOU MAKE SURE I GET WHAT I NEED.
AND WHAT'S *THAT?*
FREEDOM, PAL. SWEET, SWEET FREEDOM.

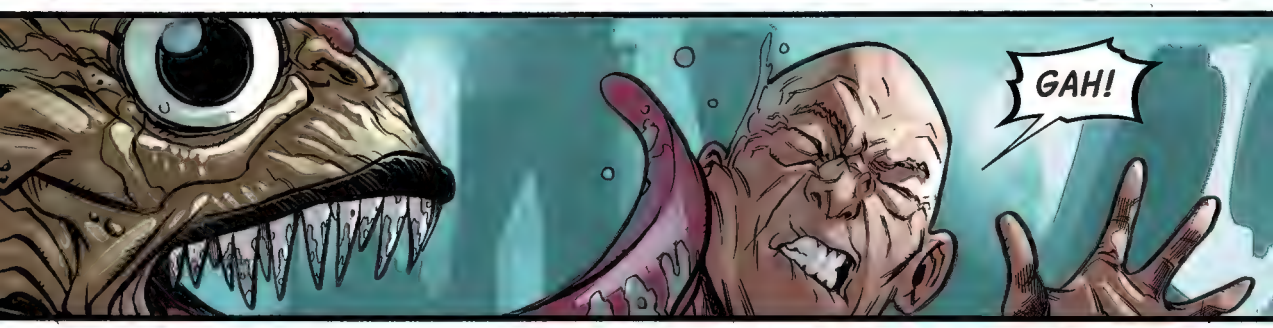
LOOK AT THAT! A RUGGED, STRANGE LANDSCAPE, BEAUTIFUL AND DANGEROUS.
PERFECT FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR GREAT, HEROIC JOURNEY.
MAXIMUS, THIS IS AN INTESTINE. THIS AIN'T A JOURNEY.
IT'S A COLONOSCOPY.
SSSSS
EH...YOU SAY TOMATO...
I STILL HATE THIS!
AH, GOOD. TAKE HEART, GENTS--
--I THINK WE'RE HERE AT LAST.

WHO COMES TO THE COURT OF THE MAW QUEEN? WHO COMES?
WHO COMES?
I AM MAXIMUS OF THE INHUMANS.
MIGHTY QUEEN OF THIS HIDDEN REALM, I DO YOU HONOR BY MY PRESENCE. AS DO MY BOON COMPANIONS.

HA! A SORRY GROUP OF UNSCALED BRINGS ME HONOR? UNLIKELY.
AH, BUT IT IS TRUE. FOR I DO NOT COME HERE NET IN HAND, YOUR MAJESTY. I BRING YOU SOMETHING YOU GREATLY DESIRE.
ALL I ASK IN RETURN IS A SMALL SUPPLY OF THAT.
ALSO UNLIKELY. THE DEEP-EGGS ARE MY REALM'S GREATEST TREASURE. YOU WOULD NEED TO BRING ME SOMETHING OF EXTRAORDINARY VALUE BEFORE I WOULD EVEN CONSIDER A TRADE.
AH, BUT I HAVE, YOUR MAJESTY.
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A KING.
ER... WHAT?

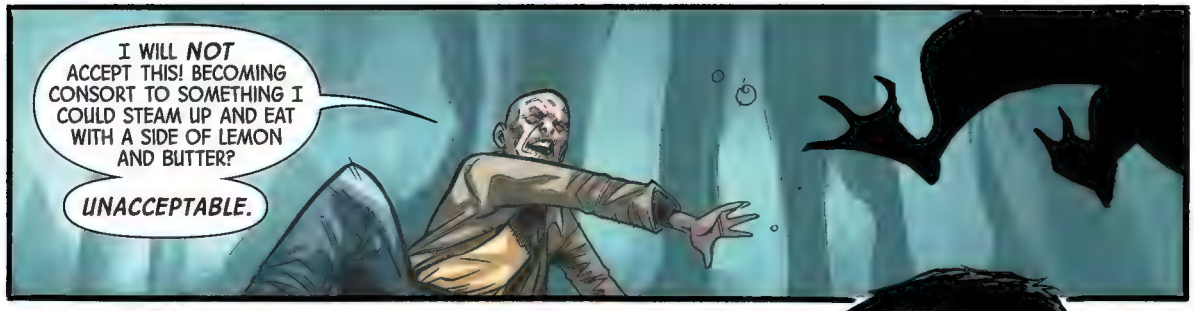

CAN IT BE TRUE? A KING AT LAST?

IF SO, IT WOULD BE A PRIZE OF GREAT VALUE.
YES, I THOUGHT SO.
NO... LET'S JUST HOLD ON A MOMENT HERE.

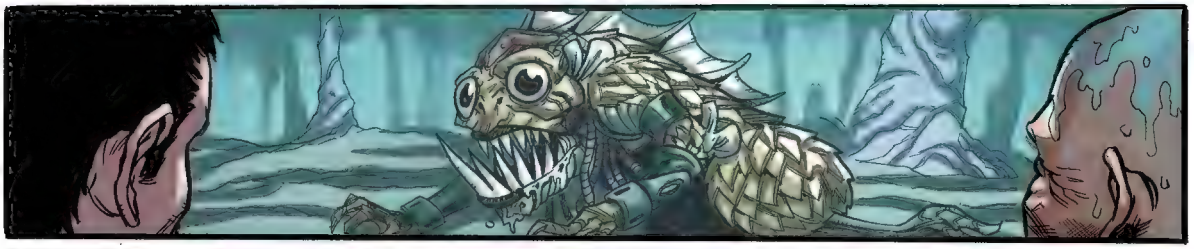

GAH!

YES, VERY NICE. YOU MAY TAKE AN AMPHORA OF DEEP-EGGS IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS KING. IS THIS ACCEPTABLE?
OH, YES. COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE.

NOT TO ME!


I WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS! BECOMING CONSORT TO SOMETHING I COULD STEAM UP AND EAT WITH A SIDE OF LEMON AND BUTTER?
UNACCEPTABLE.

BUT IF YOU DON'T, THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THE DEEP-EGGS, AND THEY'RE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS IN THE TERRIGEN RECIPE.
I DON'T CARE. THIS IS A BRIDGE TOO FAR, MAXIMUS. FIND ANOTHER WAY.
BUT THAT COULD TAKE A WHILE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, MY FRIEND.
COME ON... HOW BAD COULD IT BE?



PLEASE?
NO.

AH, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME DO IT, AREN'T YOU? I'D REALLY PREFER NOT TO.
IT WOULDN'T BE VERY HEROIC, AFTER ALL.
OH, WELL...

...NEEDS MUST.

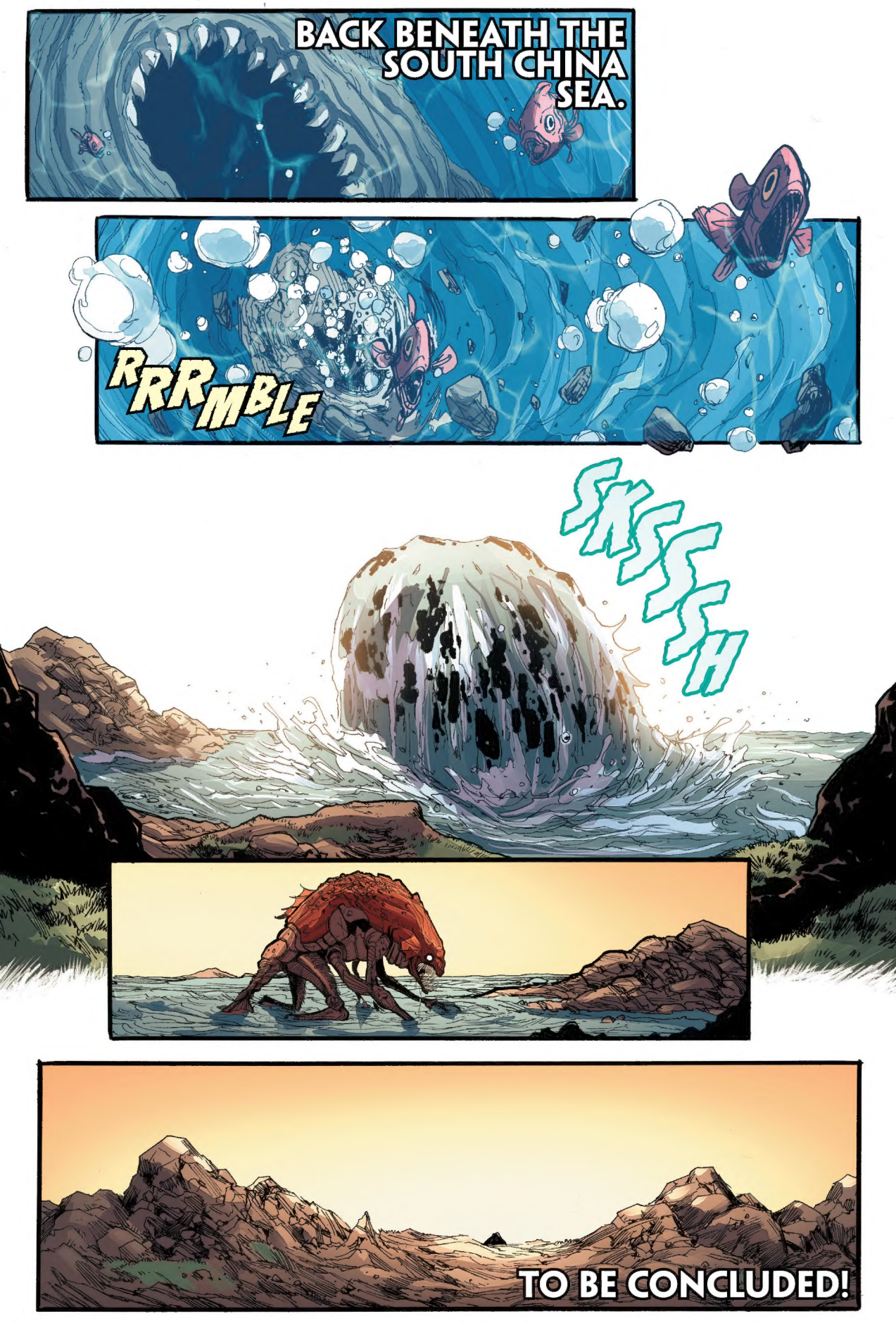
AH. OF COURSE.
OF COURSE I WILL BE YOURS, MY DARLING! FOREVER AND EVER. SIMPLY COULD NOT BE HAPPIER.
SSSSSS.
MY GOD. HOW COULD HE DO THAT TO HIM? THE POOR GUY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SURPRISED, LINEAGE. THIS WAS ALWAYS HOW IT WAS GOING TO BE.
YOU GUYS READY TO ROLL? HOPE SO. LOTS TO DO.
I...I...
YEAH. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

HEY, MAXIMUS. I GOT A QUESTION.
CERTAINLY, LINEAGE. HOW CAN I HELP?
CAN YOU KEEP THAT GOING, LIKE, NO MATTER WHERE WE GO?
YOU MEAN, WILL I LOSE CONTROL OF THE UNSPOKEN IF WE GET TOO FAR AWAY? YES. EVENTUALLY.
I DON'T SEE HOW IT MATTERS, THOUGH. WE HAVE WHAT WE CAME FOR.
NOT TO KEEP HITTING THIS, BUT WHEN YOU STOP RUNNING THE UNSPOKEN, HE'S GONNA COME TO, AND...WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO HIM?
WON'T THE MAW QUEEN BE *PISSED?*
I SUPPOSE THAT'S UP TO THE UNSPOKEN, DON'T YOU THINK?
OKAY. I GET WHY YOU BROUGHT HIM DOWN HERE-- YOU NEEDED A KING, HE WAS A KING. BUT...WHY'D YOU NEED *ME?* YOU GOT SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN MIND FOR *ME?*
OH, NO, LINEAGE. I *LIKE* YOU. YOU'RE LIKE A LESS-SOPHISTICATED, DUMBER, LESS-TALENTED, UGLIER VERSION OF ME.
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE ON THE SURFACE WHILE I CAME DOWN HERE, EITHER. WHO KNOWS WHAT YOU'D HAVE GOTTEN UP TO? AFTER ALL...
...YOU'RE A DIRTY, DOUBLE-CROSSING SON OF A GUN.
NOW LET'S GO GET THE REST OF THOSE INGREDIENTS, *EH?*

MADAGASCAR.
LONDON.
TIBET.
NIGER.

MUMBAI, INDIA.
RAJ'S SPICE SHOP
OKAY, GUYS-- YOU'VE BEEN GREAT SPORTS, AND I'VE GOT SOME WONDERFUL NEWS. THIS IS THE LAST STOP.
I'LL POP IN HERE, GRAB THE LAST INGREDIENT, AND WE'LL HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED TO SYNTHESIZE TERRIGEN.
WHAT DO WE NEED FROM A SPICE SHOP?
OH, I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU THAT. HAVE TO KEEP SOME SECRETS, OR MAYBE YOU'LL JUST CUT ME OUT OF THE PICTURE AND START MAKING TERRIGEN YOURSELVES.
WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT, WOULD WE?
NO. NEVER.
TRUTH IS, WE DON'T NEED EVEN, LIKE...HALF OF THAT STUFF YOU'RE LUGGING AROUND.
JUST WANTED TO THROW YOU GUYS OFF THE TRACK A LITTLE.
THAT GUY. ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL--
BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED, LINEAGE. MUCH BETTER.

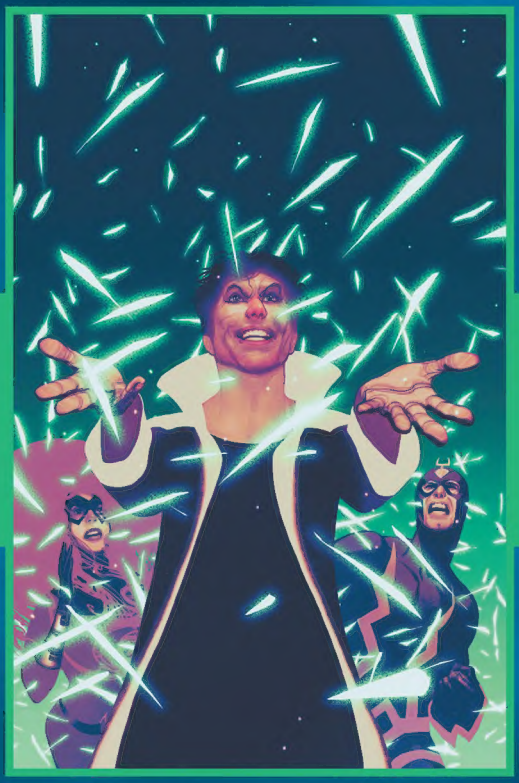
GOT IT! GUY WANTED TO CHARGE ME AN ARM AND A LEG AT FIRST...BUT WHADDYA KNOW? HE ENDED UP JUST GIVING IT TO ME. QUELLE SURPRISE.
WHAT NOW, MAXIMUS? WE HAVE THE INGREDIENTS--HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PUT THEM TOGETHER?
SO GLAD YOU ASKED, TRITON. IN RESPONSE, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU BOTH TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF TEAM HERO MAXIMUS SUPERSTAR.
BANYAN!
WE GOOD? EVERYTHING SET UP?
YES. ALL PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE BLUEPRINTS YOU SENT OVER. I'VE GOT A GUY, KLUDGE--HE'S GREAT AT BUILDING STUFF.
PERFECT! NOW, QUICK QUESTION: IS THAT WAR BETWEEN THE MUTANTS AND INHUMANS STILL GOING ON? I'VE BEEN SUPER OUT OF THE LOOP RECENTLY.
YEAH. GETTING WORSE, EVEN.
EXCELLENT. FOR YOU SEE, MY FRIENDS, IT IS TIMES OF GREATEST ADVERSITY THAT GIVE RISE TO THE GREATEST OF HEROES.
FOR EXAMPLE.


BACK BENEATH THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.
RRRMBLE
SKSSSH
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT:

NO MORE MUTANTS?
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #5!

AND DON'T MISS THE EPIC CONCLUSION IN
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #6!



AND MAXIMUS COMPLETES HIS HERO'S JOURNEY IN
UNCANNY INHUMANS #20!